

# WHITSAND BAY BATTERY 1890

## HISTORIC WALKING TOURS

FOR A POCKET HISTORY OF THE FORT, WE HAVE A SEPARATE PAMPHLETT AVAILABLE.

JUST BEHIND RECEPTION WAS THE ORIGINAL ENTRANCE TO THE FORT, WHICH COMPRISED OF A STEEL SLIDING BRIDGE THAT COULD BE DRAWN INTO THE FORT DURING TIMES OF CONFLICT.

THE FORT'S DEFENCES WERE A MIXTURE OF EARTHEN GLACIS WORKS AND AN EARLY CONCRETE WALL. THE WALL IS STILL EVIDENT, RUNNING FROM THE CARPARK ON THE NORTHERN AND WESTERN SIDES WITH EARTH WORKS ABOVE.

THE CARPARK ALSO HAS A COMPLETE CAPONIER PROTRUDING, WHICH IS THE CONCRETE BUNKER. THIS WOULD BE 20' DEEPER THAN NOW SHOWING, AS MUCH OF THE DRY MOAT SURROUNDING THE FORT WAS INFILLED DURING THE 1960'S. THE CAPONIER WOULD HOUSE GARRISON SOLDIERS WHO WOULD FIRE THROUGH SLITS IN THE SIDES TO PROVIDE ENFILADE FIRE FROM ATTACKING FORCES.

THE BUILDING WOULD HAVE AN UNDERGROUND HALF ROUND BRICK TUNNEL CONNECTING FROM THE FORT INTERIOR.

WALKING ANTI-CLOCKWISE AROUND THE MOAT, FOLLOW THE CONCRETE WALL. NOTE THE STEEP EARTHWORKS ABOVE THE WALL, WHICH SERVED TO PROTECT THE GUNS.

THE DRY MOAT CIRCUMNAVIGATES AROUND THE FORT. TO THE SOUTHWEST OF THE FORT IS A SECOND CAPONIER OPPOSITE A LONG TUNNEL WHICH PROVIDES COVER FOR MOVING MEN AND MATERIALS FROM THE FORT TO THEIR DEFENSIVE POSITIONS.

ON THE SOUTHWESTERN SIDE, ANOTHER TUNNEL IS STILL INTACT, BUT THE CAPONIER IT SERVED WAS DESTROYED IN THE 1960'S.

THIS WILL HAVE BROUGHT YOU BACK TO THE START POINT, NEAR RECEPTION.

WALK PAST THE INFORMATION CENTRE. ON THE RIGHT IS THE GUN BATTERY CLUB. OUTSIDE THE CLUB IS LOCATED ONE OF THE ORIGINAL GUNS, A 64LB SMOOTHBORE CANNON WE CALL 'BESS'. THIS GUN WAS LOCATED IN ONE OF THE 5 MAJOR GUN EMPLACEMENTS. IF YOU LOOK AT THE GUN CLOSER YOU WILL SEE SHE WAS MADE AT THE CARRON IRONWORKS IN FALKIRK, SCOTLAND IN 1809. WHERE SHE WAS LOCATED BEFORE COMING TO WHITSAND BAY WE DO NOT KNOW.